

Amendments to the Claims:

1 Claim 1 (currently amended): **A** a solidifier for the solidification of a volume
2 of liquid **having a reference density, said solidifier** comprising:
3 a first absorbent,
4 a second absorbent,
5 said first absorbent having an apparent density **less than the reference**
6 **density** to the liquid sought to be solidified,
7 said second absorbent having an apparent density **greater than the**
8 **reference density, whereby** ~~which renders~~ said second absorbent **is** negatively
9 buoyant relative to the liquid sought to be solidified,
10 said first and second absorbents being combined in a mixture thereof,
11 **whereby when said first absorbent and said second absorbent are**
12 **introduced into the liquid, the liquid is converted into a gel.**

1 Claim 2 (original): The solidifier of Claim 1 wherein said mixture comprises
2 substantially equal parts, by weight, of said first and second absorbents.

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1 Claim 3 (original): The solidifier of Claim 1 wherein said liquid to be
2 solidified is contained within a vessel and said mixture comprises greater than fifty
3 percent, by weight, of said second absorbent whereby said second absorbent tends
4 to gravitate toward the bottom of said vessel.

1 Claim 4 (original): The solidifier of Claim 3 wherein said mixture comprises
2 between about eighty percent and about twenty percent, by weight of said first
3 absorbent.

1 Claim 5 (original): The solidifier of Claim 1 and including a third absorbent.

1 Claim 6 (original): The solidifier of Claim 5 wherein said third solidifier
2 exhibits an apparent density which renders said third absorbent positively buoyant
3 relative to the liquid sought to be solidified.

1 Claim 7 (original): The solidifier of Claim 6 wherein the apparent density of
2 said third absorbent is intermediate the apparent densities of said first and second
3 absorbents.

1 Claim 8 (original): The solidifier of Claim 7 wherein said mixture of
2 absorbents comprises about fifty percent, by weight, of said second absorbent,
3 about ten percent, by weight, of said third absorbent, and about forty percent, by
4 weight, of said first absorbent.

1 Claim 9 (original): The solidifier of Claim 5 wherein the average particle size
2 of said third absorbent is greater than the average particle size of said second
3 absorbent.

91 1 Claim 10 (original): The solidifier of Claim 1 wherein each of said
2 absorbents is in the form of a flowable powder.

1 Claim 11 (original): The solidifier of Claim 1 and further including
2 packaging for said mixture which is dissolvable or disintegrative when disposed in
3 said liquid to be solidified.

1 Claim 12 (original): The solidifier of Claim 11 wherein said packaging
2 comprises two or more compartments, each compartment containing a portion of
3 one or more of said absorbents.

1 Claim 13 (original): The solidifier of Claim 12 wherein said two or more
2 compartments exhibit different rates of dissolution or disintegration when disposed
3 in said liquid to be solidified.

1 Claim 14 (original): The solidifier of Claim 5 wherein each of said
2 absorbents is in the form of a flowable powder.

1 Claim 15 (original): The solidifier of Claim 5 and further including
2 packaging for said mixture which is dissolvable or disintegrative when disposed in
3 said liquid to be solidified.

1 Claim 16 (original): The solidifier of Claim 15 wherein said packaging
2 comprises two or more compartments, each compartment containing a portion of
3 one or more of said absorbents.

1 Claim 17 (original): The solidifier of Claim 16 wherein said two or more
2 compartments exhibit different rates of dissolution or disintegration when disposed
3 in said liquid to be solidified.

1 Claim 18 (currently amended): A solidifier in powder form for solidifying a
2 volume of liquid **having a reference density, said solidifier** comprising:

3 a first mixture of powdered absorbents,

4 a second mixture of powdered absorbents,

5 said first mixture of powdered absorbents exhibiting an apparent density
6 **less than the reference density, whereby** ~~which renders~~ said first mixture of
7 powdered absorbents **is** positively buoyant relative to the liquid sought to be
8 solidified,

9 said second mixture of powdered absorbents exhibiting an apparent density
10 **greater than the reference density, whereby** ~~which renders~~ said second mixture
11 of powdered absorbents **is** negatively buoyant relative to the liquid sought to be
12 solidified,

13 **whereby when said first mixture of powdered absorbents and said**
14 **second mixture of powdered absorbents are introduced into the liquid, the**
15 **liquid is converted into a gel.**

1 Claim 19 (original): A solidifier for a liquid sought to be solidified comprising
2 a mixture of a plurality of different absorbents in flowable powder form, at least
3 one of said absorbents having an apparent density which renders it negatively
4 buoyant in the liquid sought to be solidified, and at least one of said absorbents
5 having an apparent density which renders it positively buoyant relative to the
6 liquid sought to be solidified.

1 Claim 20 (original): The solidifier of Claim 19 and including packaging for
2 said mixture, said packaging being dissolvable or disintegrative when disposed
3 within said liquid sought to be solidified.

1 Claim 21 (original): The solidifier of Claim 19 wherein said mixture includes
2 at least three different absorbents, two of said absorbents having respective
3 apparent densities which render each negatively buoyant relative to the liquid
4 sought to be solidified, and the third of said absorbents having an apparent density
5 which renders said third absorbent positively buoyant relative to the liquid sought
6 to be solidified.

1 Claim 22 (original): The solidifier of Claim 21 wherein said negatively
2 buoyant absorbents exhibit different apparent densities whereby one of said
3 negatively buoyant absorbents is more buoyant than the other of said negatively
4 buoyant absorbents and said absorbent of lesser buoyancy enhances the
5 distribution within said liquid of said absorbent of greater buoyancy.

1 Claim 23 (currently amended): A method for the solidification of a liquid
2 **having a reference density, said method** comprising the steps of:
3 mixing together a first absorbent having an apparent density **less than the**
4 **reference density, whereby** ~~which renders~~ said first absorbent **is** positively
5 buoyant relative to the liquid to be solidified whereby said first absorbent floats
6 adjacent the surface of the liquid, and at least one further absorbent having an
7 apparent density **greater than the reference density, whereby** ~~which renders~~
8 said further absorbent **is** negatively buoyant relative to the liquid to be solidified
9 whereby said at least one further absorbent sinks toward the bottom of the liquid
10 to be solidified, and
11 introducing at least a portion of said mixture into the liquid to be solidified,
12 **whereby the liquid is converted into a gel.**

1 Claim 24 (original): The method of Claim 23 and including the step of
2 mixing a still further absorbent with said first and further absorbent, said still

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3 further absorbent having an apparent density intermediate the densities of said
4 first and further absorbents and which renders said still further absorbent
5 negatively buoyant relative to the liquid to be solidified.

9/ 1 Claim 25 (original): The method of Claim 24 wherein said still further
2 absorbent exhibits an average particle size greater than the average particle size of
3 said at least one further absorbent.
